

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application.

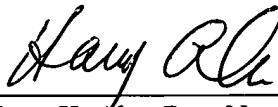
On March 23, 2006, Applicant held a telephone interview with Examiners Mruk and Shah. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiners for their consideration during the telephone interview. During the interview, Applicant discussed the claim language of "wherein each of said pressure chambers has a depth of 35 μm -45 μm in a direction perpendicular to said one of opposite surfaces of said flow-passage unit" as recited in claim 1.

Specifically, Applicant argued that the recited depth range is a narrower range than is taught in Shimosato (US Patent No. 5428382) and that this narrow range is unobvious. It is unobvious because (1) the narrow recited range produced an unexpected result of an effective reduction in ink ejection velocity variation due to variation of the drive pulse width, and (2) Shimosato reference fails to address the problem of variation in the ink ejection velocity due to a variation of the drive pulse width.

During the telephone interview, Applicant and Examiners have reached an understanding that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10 depending from claim 1 are in allowable condition because of the above recitation.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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